

These Trails Depend On You

The Mount Si NRCA and surrounding area trails are just a short drive from the Seattle metropolitan area and are used heavily. With limited public funding, trails often remain open because of volunteer maintenance efforts. Get involved by contacting:



DNR photo

The Volunteer Trailwork Coalition
1-206-464-1641 or
1-800-650-1641
Or by internet at
vtc@halcyon.com
http://www.halcyon.com/vtc/

For more information about the Mount Si Natural Resource Conservation Area and trails in the Upper Snoqualmie Valley, and how you can help protect resources and recreational opportunities, contact:

**Department of Natural Resources
South Puget Sound Region**
P.O. Box 68
950 Farman St N
Enumclaw, WA 98022-0068
(360) 825-1631/(360)825-6381 TTY

Emergency! Emergency!

- Phone numbers you need to know:
- Medical Aid/Sheriff — 911
 - Vandalism —1-800-527-3305
 - To report Wildfires — 1-800-562-6010 or 911

Persons needing the information contained in this brochure in an alternative format may call:
(360) 902-1340 or
TTY (360) 902-1125



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

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1998
trail
map

Mount Si NRCA
&
Upper
Snoqualmie
Valley
Trail Systems

Mount Si NRCA and
Upper Snoqualmie Valley Trail Systems

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AREA



photo by Darcy McNamara

View of Snoqualmie Pass from Mount Si



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Mount Si Natural Resources
Conservation Area

The Mount Si Trail is located within the Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) which was established in 1987 to protect a fragile ecosystem, scenic resource, and dominant landmark along the I-90 corridor. This trail, along with the other trails listed in this brochure, are located near North Bend, Washington, about 30 miles east of Seattle.

Protecting
unique natural
features

The Department of Natural Resources manages more than 50,000 acres of state land on 24 sites as NRCA's. These lands are established for their outstanding ecological and scenic values. Special features found on the ruggedly steep Mount Si NRCA include: outstanding geology, old-growth forest, wildlife, and wildflower communities. The NRCA designation provides:



Scotch Bluebell, Mount Si NRCA
photo by Lois Kemp

- Protection for habitat of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and animal species
- Opportunities for environmental education
- Opportunities for low impact recreation

Public use is allowed only where it will not negatively affect the area's protected resources.

Conservation areas are acquired through gift or purchase from willing land owners. The majority of current sites were formerly school trust lands with unique conservation values. They were purchased with funds appropriated by the Washington State legislature.

More About Mount Si NRCA
and Environs

Cultural Heritage



View of Mt Si from
Rattlesnake Mountain
photo by Darcy McNamara

Lying between the North and Middle Forks of the Snoqualmie River, Mount Si and its neighboring peaks have long been an important landmark in the lives of the different peoples who have lived in and traveled through this region.

The Snoqualmie Valley served as a major cross-roads for Native American trade, and was heavily used by the indigenous people of the region for hunting and gathering. The area appears in legend of the Snoqualmie tribe, who, in one origin story, used a cedar rope to swing between Mount Si and Rattlesnake Mountain.

Fauna and Flora

Native mountain goat, elk, bear, cougar, coyote and other wildlife are found in the area. Peregrine falcon, a federally endangered species, have nested successfully on the cliffs.

There are over 300 species of plants in the Mount Si NRCA.

Recreation

Mount Si is a well known geographical landmark in Washington and an important link in the Mountains to Sound Greenway. Visitors enjoy the strenuous Mount Si trail, the Little Si trail, and rock climbing.

Reaching the summit of Mount Si is a challenging hike with an elevation gain of 3200 feet. It is four miles to the top and takes the average hiker 2-3 hours *one way*. Halfway up the trail is a small stand of old growth forest with an interpretive area called Snag Flats. The summit can be chilly even in summer and the weather changes quickly. Please carry water and other essentials -- there are no facilities along the trail.



Peregrine Falcon
photo by R. Congdon

Directions

To get to the Mount Si trailhead from Seattle, travel I-90 East, thirty miles to exit 31, head north, then east (right) on North Bend Way. Turn left on Mount Si Rd. Trailhead is 2.1 miles ahead on left. Vault toilets, two picnic tables, and the short Creekside Loop trail are available at the trailhead.

Please remember:

- Day use and hiker only.
- Dogs must be leashed.
- Park in designated areas.

Upper Snoqualmie Valley
Trail Systems

There are many opportunities for outdoor recreation in the North Bend area. If the parking area at Mount Si or Little Si trailhead is full (towing is strictly enforced) please consider some of these other trails in the immediate vicinity.

Rattlesnake Lake

Near Rattlesnake Mountain, this lake is popular for fishing, swimming, hiking, and picnicking. The City of Seattle will add a Watershed Interpretive Center. *From I-90, take exit 32 and drive 436th Ave SE, 2.7 miles to the lake.*

Rattlesnake Ledge

From Rattlesnake Lake, the Rattlesnake Ledge Trail climbs 1175' in 1 mile though forest to rock outcrops that provide sweeping views of the Snoqualmie Valley. From here, hikers can cross Rattlesnake Mountain to reach Snoqualmie Point. *From I-90, take exit 32 and drive 436th Ave SE, 2.7 miles to the trailhead.*

Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley

Over 100,000 acres on the edge of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness provide a variety of trails and both recently harvested and ancient forests. The valley is minutes from North Bend, but lightly visited. An unpaved, 12-mile road leads to a footbridge and access to backcountry trails. *From I-90, take exit 34, turn north on 468th Ave, then right onto Lake Dorothy Rd which becomes the valley on the Middle Fork Rd.*

Twin Falls State Park

A 1.3 mile forested trail along the south fork of the Snoqualmie River to a spectacular view of the upper and lower Twin Falls. Continue on to reach the John Wayne Trail. *From I-90, take exit 34, go south .5 mile, and turn left on SE 159th St. Go .5 mile to the park.*

The John Wayne Trail/Iron Horse State Park

This unique, linear park is located on portions of the former Milwaukee Railway grade that reaches from Rattlesnake Lake to the Idaho border. A non-motorized, level grade trail, it is ideal for mountain bikers, equestrians, and hikers. Detours are needed where the trail is not yet connected or trestles are down, but improvements are coming. *Trailhead access points: Rattlesnake Lake (exit 32), and Ollalie State Park (exit 38).*

Meadowbrook Farm

The large historic farm and Native American gathering place at the foot of Mount Si is now public open space, farmland and wildlife habitat. Trails and intrepreative activities are in the works. *From I-90 E, take exit 27, turn left turn left again onto Meadowbrook Ave, then turn right onto Meadowbrook-North Bend Rd. From I-90 W, take exit 31, turn north, follow the curve onto SR 202, and turn right onto Boalch Ave.*